

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sealing apparatus for sealing an annular gap between a shaft and a housing that are relatively rotated, the sealing apparatus comprising

a seal lip extending toward a sealing fluid side to be in sliding contact with a surface of the shaft,

a projection disposed at a root of the seal lip, a distance between a surface of the projection and a center of the shaft being ~~equal to or~~ slightly larger than a radius of the shaft, and

at least a part of a side surface of the projection exhibiting a suction function of returning fluid that has leaked from a seal lip tip end to a the sealing fluid side when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated, the projection including and extending between a plurality of sets set of side surfaces, the side surfaces ~~of each of said sets forming~~ of one projection and an adjacent projection define a triangular shaped recess ~~cut into~~ located between the projection and the adjacent projection with the recess pointing down towards the seal tip end.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A sealing apparatus for sealing an annular gap between a shaft and a housing that are relatively rotated, the sealing apparatus comprising

a seal lip extending toward a sealing fluid side to be in sliding contact with a surface of the shaft,

an annular portion projecting out more to the sealing fluid side than the seal lip, and

the annular portion including a projection, a distance between a surface of the projection and a center of the shaft being ~~equal to or~~ slightly larger than a radius of the shaft, and

at least a part of a side surface of the projection exhibiting a suction function of returning fluid that comes in from an inner circumference side of the annular portion to a the sealing fluid side when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated, the projection including and extending between a ~~plurality of sets~~ set of side surfaces, the side surfaces ~~of each of said sets forming~~ of one projection and an adjacent projection define a triangular shaped recess ~~cut into~~ located between the projection and the adjacent projection with the recess pointing down towards the seal tip end.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The sealing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the side surfaces ~~of each of the sets~~ of the projection exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a first direction, and the other one of the side surfaces ~~of each of the sets~~ exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The sealing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein one of the side surfaces ~~of each of the sets~~ of the projection exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a first direction, and the other one of the side surfaces ~~of each of the sets~~ exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a second direction opposite to the first direction.